

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Application Serial No. 10/502,402
Attorney Docket No. Q82699

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph no. 3 on page 5 (second full paragraph) with the following amended paragraph:

The coupler is preferably made of an elastic material. Further, preferably this coupler is made of an elastic material, which is moderate in both hardness and elasticity so as not to damage a coil element rod of the coil spring. The elastic material is preferably larger in stiffness than the coil spring. Plastics, aluminum alloys, copper alloys and like materials can be used as the material of the coupler. As for a method for fixedly mounting the coupler on the coil spring, it is possible to bond the coupler to the coil spring with the use of an adhesive. Further, it is also possible to fixedly hold the coupler in the coil spring with the use of resiliency of the coil spring.

Please replace the paragraph no. 2 on page 7 (first full paragraph) with the following amended paragraph:

As shown in detail in FIG. 2, an example of the coupler 3 of the present invention is constructed of a block which is provided with: a groove 3a having a bottom radius, which radius permits the terminal portion 2a of the coil element rod 2 to be steadily inserted into the groove 3a; and, a groove 3b provided in a rear surface oppositely disposed from the groove 3a in the block, wherein the groove 3b of the block has a bottom radius permitting the block to steadily mount on an outer peripheral surface of a convolution of the coil element rod in a raiding manner, which convolution is disposed axially subsequent to the terminal portion (or

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convolution) 2a of the coil element rod 2. This makes it possible for the block to keep consistent a clearance between the terminal portion (or convolution) 2a of the coil element rod 2 and the corresponding outer peripheral surface of the axially subsequent convolution of the coil element rod 2 when the coil spring of the present invention is compressed. Preferably, this block is made of a suitable elastic material having a moderate hardness so as not to damage the coil element rod. The elastic material is preferably larger in stiffness than the coil spring. When the coupler is larger in deflection than the coil spring, the coupler fails to prevent occurrence of the initial deflection in the coil spring. Due to this, the block may be made of plastics and soft metals both low in hardness. As for a method for fixedly mounting the coupler on the coil spring of closed-end type of the present invention: although it is preferable to have at least one of the grooves 3a, 3b of the coupler 3 is bonded to the coil element rod with the use of an adhesive, it is also possible to fixedly mount the block by a resiliency of the coil spring itself without using any adhesive.